

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
COOK INLET AREA
2018 STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD JIG SEASON
OPENS JANUARY 1
EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-H-03-18**

The Cook Inlet Area state-waters Pacific cod season for vessels using jig gear will open January 1, 2018. Fishermen are reminded that all fish must be landed within 24 hours following the closure of the 2017 parallel season and prior to participating in the 2018 state-waters season.

On December 15, 2017, the department announced the opening of the Cook Inlet Area parallel Pacific cod season to jig gear on January 1, 2018 by emergency order (EO) #2-GF-H-02-18 to coincide with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) opening of the initial ("A") Pacific cod season in the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area (CGOA). On December 27, 2017 NMFS announced that directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using jig gear will be prohibited in the CGOA effective 0000 hours January 1, 2018 through 1200 hours June 10, 2018, effectively closing the federal Pacific cod initial "A" season in the CGOA to jig gear. Therefore, the Cook Inlet Area state-waters season will open to vessels using jig gear on January 1.

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Cook Inlet Area state-waters Pacific cod season is 671,141 lb, with 85% (570,470 lb) allocated to vessels using pot gear and 15% (100,671 lb) allocated to vessels using jig gear. In addition, only 25% of the GHL (167,785 lb) may be harvested by vessels using pot gear greater than 58 feet in length.

Fishermen are reminded to obtain a Cook Inlet Area 2018 Pacific cod state-waters season registration from ADF&G prior to fishing.

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